

Honolulu Star-Bulletin

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EDITOR

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My business is not to remake myself, but make the absolute best of what God made.—Robert Browning.

WIRELESS AND NATIONAL NEUTRALITY

When Collector of Customs Franklin yesterday afternoon received orders from Washington to seal up the wireless apparatus of merchantment of belligerent nations now in port, a new precedent was set here in international law.

The subject was first raised in New York several weeks ago when a report went out that German-owned wireless telegraph stations in the United States had been sending information and orders to German ships at sea. It was denied at the time that such information had been sent, but President Wilson took advantage of the opportunity to lay down a new principle in the duties of neutrals and the restrictions on representatives of belligerents. The general rule, notes the New York Times, seems to have been understood hitherto as prohibiting the use of the wireless on neutral territory by one of the belligerents, but it has not been extended to the operations of private companies, which have stood on the same footing as cable companies and land telegraph lines.

The Times adds "But no such situation as the one existing today has ever before arisen. In this case the wireless on American territory is said to have been used, certainly is capable of use, for the purpose of communicating military information and orders to a ship at sea, a thing no cable company or land line could do. If, for instance, the German-owned stations in New York and New Jersey should communicate to a German cruiser the news that a rich prize was leaving New York Harbor and should be captured, it would be difficult to avoid the charge that persons on American territory were taking part in the war. President Wilson's proclamation of neutrality commands that no person within the territory and jurisdiction of the United States shall take part, directly or indirectly, in the said wars. That seems to cover the question, but he has put the matter beyond the range of doubt by his order, and has made a precedent which will presumably govern the use of wireless in future wars."

The orders received yesterday give general jurisdiction for all matters concerning radio communication involving neutrality to the naval commandant here. If necessary to enforce the instructions, the treasury department authorities the customs men to seal the wireless room and apparatus of any merchant vessel of a belligerent nation; the seals to be maintained until the vessel's departure. It was under these specific orders and the general rule of neutrality recently interpreted by the president that the customs men yesterday afternoon sealed the wireless of several merchant vessels in port.

This is one instance of the new problems that are arising during the European war. There will be many others, for the advance in methods of communication, of fighting, of transportation, brings up new situations.

FISH AND FOWL

Auto-owners and drivers of Honolulu will be glad to learn from the interview with District Magistrate Monsarrat published in another column of this paper that Judge Monsarrat does not intend to make fish of one and fowl of another in passing upon violations of the traffic law.

The cases of a Japanese and a white chauffeur arrested for similar infractions of the traffic rules have attracted much attention. The Japanese was fined, the white chauffeur received a suspended sentence, which is practically no more serious than a discharge. Both were arrested for driving on the wrong side of Kalakaua avenue.

On behalf of the white chauffeur it is stated by the district magistrate and the prosecuting attorney that he pleaded ignorance of the new traffic rule, not having driven his car for some weeks, and furthermore that he was trying to avoid a particularly rough piece of road. In court, the arresting police officer stated, according to the court, that he recognized the road was very poor at this point and that he "didn't blame the chauffeur for crossing over." The prosecuting attorney, Mr.

Chillingworth, on the police officer's statement recommended to the court the suspension of sentence, and upon the recommendation of the prosecution and the officer's statement the court suspended sentence.

It should be noted that for a case to be dropped, as this one virtually is, there must be concurrence of the court in the motion of the prosecution.

In the opinion of the Star-Bulletin, the district magistrate's ruling in this case has opened the way for all sorts of excuses to be presented in court for those who violate the recently promulgated rule of the police department against driving toward Waikiki on the left-hand—the smooth road.

The public generally will take and in fact has taken the suspension of sentence in the Quinn case as the making of an exception by the court. District Magistrate Monsarrat today declared emphatically that auto-owners must follow out the police order, and he himself, when driving his own car, follows those orders, though he says cars should not be required to traverse this rough and uncomfortable stretch of road. He declares that no exceptions are to be made of any who are brought before him for infraction of this order.

It is to be hoped that the police department, the prosecuting attorneys and the district magistrate will work in entire cooperation to see that the traffic rules are strictly and impartially enforced. Otherwise the orders might as well not be issued. And obviously the police officers should not arrest a driver unless they have cause sufficient enough and plain enough to stand by when the case comes into court.

FOR SPEEDIER TRIALS

Circuit Judge Ashford has signaled his accession to the bench with the following warning to attorneys who rely on delay to bolster up their cases:

"It strikes me that the convenience of counsel has been too generously recognized in the past, and I have felt that that ought to lie very much within the domain of the rights of counsel, particularly in civil cases—that they should practically dictate the time of the trial of civil cases. But with regard to criminal cases, where the territory at large is a party, different considerations intervene and it is highly desirable that speedy trial be accorded the defendants; on the one hand as a matter of justice to them and on the other hand as insuring a greater degree of justice and fair play to the territory, because we all are aware that in criminal cases particularly the longer they are left untried the fewer are the prospects of securing convictions."

"As a general proposition I think I may say that the interests of the territory demand speedy trials. I believe it also is a proposition which may be recognized with equal force that the longer a criminal case is delayed the better are the chances of the defendant to escape a conviction."

The community heartily applauds these sentiments and strange to say we have heard not an attorney complaining that an unfair attack has been made upon the legal profession or the judiciary. Recognizing that the layman's opinion is at once open to the scornful criticism of the law initiate, we nevertheless venture the assertion that the next few years will witness a sweeping-away of the web of delaying technicalities which now surrounds American jurisprudence and a more definite reliance on the merits of the matter. And this will result in speedier hearings.

Speaking of Kalakaua avenue and the police order against going Waikikiward on the smooth side, either the other road should be mended or the police ruling modified. So long as the right-hand road is in its present condition, the the good road should be opened to traffic both ways with drastic enforcement of an anti-speeding rule. There is plenty of room for two-way auto-traffic if the cars go at a reasonable speed.

A few days ago attention was called in these columns to the very bad condition of Punchbowl street, the main avenue of approach to the Queen's Hospital. Now the city is busy fixing the street, steam-rollers are puffing up and down, and a new and smooth surface from Queen street to the hospital entrance is being laid in a hurry. Many thanks, Engineer Wall, on behalf of the community!

A Progressive candidate who urges publicly that Kuhio be elected in preference to George R. Carter may be suspected of ignorance as to what the Battle of Armageddon was all about.

Of course Ad Club night was a success. Otherwise it wouldn't have been Ad Club night.

Is the billboard controversy also to be injected into the municipal campaign?

LETTERS OF THE WEEK

(The Star-Bulletin invites free and frank discussion in this column on all legitimate subjects of current interest. Communications are constantly received to which no signature is attached. This paper will treat as confidential signatures to letters if the writers so desire, but cannot give space for anonymous communications.)

WHY THE STAR CHAMBER?

Honolulu, Aug. 21, 1914.
Editor Honolulu Star-Bulletin.

Sir: Is there any explanation or reason for the liquor license commission, the board of supervisors or any other public service organization holding "Star Chamber" sessions?

Are not these bodies public servants and is not the public entitled to know what its employees are doing just the same as any business house is entitled to know of the acts of its employees? Provided the public is capable of creating these positions, or of electing officials who are empowered to make these appointments, it certainly is competent to pass upon their acts.

The writer, interested in matters

coming before the liquor license board, was in attendance at the meeting yesterday but was disappointed to discover that the usual "star chamber" tactics were employed.

It looks to the man up a tree as though these boards and commissions adopt a "public-be-damned" theory and follow it out to its ultimate conclusions. It certainly is about time that some stand was taken by the press, the public and the pulpit—or any civic organizations—in order that the people who are compelled to pay salaries to any of these public servants who draw salary and are responsible for the honor that is accrued by appointment to the "no salary" commissions, should have a line on what is done by these same servants.

It is hard to figure just what may come before the liquor license commission of a nature unfit for the public to know. Why the press not allowed to be present at these meetings and give to the public the news of such meetings?

The "Star Chamber" method is a relic of barbarism and it is about time it was tabu in a civilized community.

OPEN FORUM.

LITTLE INTERVIEWS

—RALPH S. HOSMER: My new work at Cornell will begin in a short time now. The school of forestry has been established some four years.

—CAPT. HENRI BERGER: The Germans may get a good liking, but what about it when they get up and keep on fighting? That is different, eh?

—JIM QUINN: Honestly, I have come to the conclusion that I don't know a thing about the situation politically. The chances look good for everybody.

—JOHN HUGHES: I haven't decided whether to run for mayor, supervisor or senator. However, I'm going to make an announcement some of these days.

—FRED MAKINO: Owing to the strict censorship which the Japanese government has placed on war news, the Hawaii Hochi has every reason to believe that the cables which it receives from its correspondent in Tokyo are authentic.

—LIEUT. A. L. BUMP: Schofield Barracks fans are lost without regular post league games, for baseball enthusiasm is running as high as ever. There is sure to be a banner turn-out for the Coast-Defense game there Sunday.

—T. H. REITO: In the segregation of registered voters of the fourth district, 19 Japanese are found on the lists. Next year it will be far more. A vote of more than 100 Chinese in this district may be expected this year.

—CAPT. H. L. REILY: The report that the officers in the Japanese liner Suiyo Maru turned back to Honolulu after sighting several beer kegs floating on the surface of the Pacific some 100 miles to the westward cannot be confirmed.

—CAPT. W. B. GIBSON, 2d Inf.: The work of Major Lenihan's battalion in the neighborhood of Waimanalo during the past ten days has been of unusual interest. There has been some strenuous mountain climbing, but fortunately no accidents.

—A. L. C. ATKINSON: On account of the strictness of the censorship it is impossible to reveal the discussions of the board of strategy during its noon meeting at Nolte's every day. We cannot afford to reveal our plans for settling the European war.

—JUDGE MONSARRAT: That stretch of road from King street out along Kalakaua avenue needs fixing badly and it is not strange that automobilists object to taking the right-hand side of the road. However, so long as the police require them to take that side, I shall uphold the police.

—CAPTAIN L. B. REEVES: We were informed this morning that both sides in the European war won a decisive victory. Thousands were killed and wounded from among the rival armies which plainly indicates that the intrepid corps of war correspondents are obeying the neutrality laws to the letter.

—JACK LUCAS: I hear that C. H. Brown had offered \$5000 each for the German freighters Setos and Pomern, through H. Hackfeld & Company. As far as I can learn the flat-

COHEN SLATED FOR ATTACK BY MORNING PAPER?

Mayorality Candidate's Plans to Use Billboards Believed to Have Started Fight

Joel C. Cohen, candidate for mayor, is the object of threatened attack by the Advertiser, according to Cohen's friends today, because he contemplates using the billboards to get his candidacy before the people.

Cohen recently purchased through the Pioneer Advertising agency a number of large-sized portrait posters to be placed on local billboards. The fact that he intended to use the billboards became noised around. This morning the Advertiser said editorially:

"A candidate who has no more regard for the beauty of Honolulu than to use the billboards in his campaign is not a fit man to be the mayor of Honolulu. It may be taken for granted, too, that a candidate who makes use of billboards notifies the fourth district that he has no use for the four thousand odd votes of that part of the city."

Cohen's friends and Cohen himself understand today that he is the candidate for mayor referred to. Cohen declined to talk for publication today or do more than to say merely that he knows no other candidate for mayor who had contemplated using billboards.

His campaign, however, is being made very largely on the declaration that he is controlled by no person or corporation and is entirely independent and indications today were that he expects to use the billboards for his portrait posters, one of which was put up at the Bijou theater last night.

Surprise was expressed today at the reported imminent break between Cohen and the morning paper, as up to the present time the Advertiser has appeared to be distinctly friendly to Cohen and his campaign and referred to his candidacy as in line with a movement for efficient and business-like government.

Personal Mention

JOSHUA D. TUCKER, land commissioner, will accompany the Shriners on their trip to Maui, leaving with the party tonight.

JAMES A. RATH, headworker of the Palama Settlement, has gone to Kapaeha, windward Oahu, to visit the settlement's fresh air camp at that place. He will return to Honolulu early next week.

The members of Honolulu Lodge No. 616, B. P. O. E., will meet at 7:30 o'clock this evening in the Elks' hall, King near Fort street.

tering tender has not been accepted, which might indicate that the owners have no intention of letting the ocean-going leviathans go to the scrap heap.

FOR SALE

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Jewelers.

COHEN AND PICTURES PROVE MAGNETS AT KEVIN'S THEATER

Residents of the Punchbowl district jammed Kevin's theater at Luso and Emma streets last night to hear Joel C. Cohen explain why he aspired to be mayor, as well as to see the moving pictures provided by Cohen and hear the Hawaiian glee sextet which have been a feature of the Cohen meetings. Cohen, on ascending the stage, was unable to begin his speech for fully two minutes on account of the cheering with which he was greeted. Hundreds who had desired to attend the meeting were turned away because of being unable to crowd themselves into the theater. Cohen spoke along the general lines which he followed in all his addresses, urging that at the coming elections the city and county of Honolulu should place in charge of the administration proven businessmen who would handle the city and county business in a business way, economically and efficiently. He also touched on the value of good roads, the urgency of weekly pay day for city employees and other planks of his platform. At the conclusion of his address Cohen invited other candidates to speak and among those who responded were Eddie Quinn for senate, George A. Davis for city and county attorney, J. W. Kekipi for supervisor, Edward Woodward for auditor, E. K. Likialani for senate and others. Tonight Cohen will hold a meeting in upper Nuuanu.

The Greek battleship Kilikis, formerly the U. S. S. Mississippi, which is at Norfolk, Va., received orders to rush with all possible speed to the Mediterranean.

Mrs. Hilda Veritza, wife of one of the three Rockville Center policemen arrested for robbery, was arrested on a charge of receiving and hiding stolen goods.

The Italian minister to Albania reported to his country that Prince William, ruler of the Albanian kingdom, is expected to abdicate.

JOINT COMMITTEE ON CONVENTION SOON TO NAME OAHU SPEAKERS

Through a communication from the secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, the Promotion Committee has been asked to join with the chamber, the Ad Club, Commercial Club and the board of supervisors in making arrangements for the part which Oahu is to play in the annual civic convention to be held shortly at Wailuku, Maui. The promotionists have been asked to appoint a committee of three members to cooperate with like committees from the other organizations in this matter.

It now is the idea that the members of the chamber, Ad Club, Commercial Club, supervisors and Promotion Committee attend the convention as a unit, representing Oahu. A meeting of the joint body has been called for the afternoon of August 28 at 3 o'clock in the rooms of the chamber, Stangenwald building, to further the plans. Certain topics have been assigned to Oahu for addresses to be delivered at the convention and, to prevent a possible overlapping, the joint committee has appointed a sub-committee, consisting of C. G. Bockus, L. Tenney Peck, C. G. Heiser and E. H. F. Wolter, to select the speakers.

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is the best time to consider your will. Consult us. Don't leave your estate subject to the laws of descent. Your desires may be different. Now is the time to look forward and settle the matter. Guard against delays, loss, expense, publicity and legal complications.

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